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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**FEDERAL FUGITIVE OF TWO YEARS SENTENCED IN
LARGEST CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CONSPIRACY
EVER IN NEW ALBANY**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that CURTIS ODELL CARTER, 28, Jeffersonville, Indiana, was sentenced to 25 years imprisonment late Friday by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine. This case was the result of a 18 month investigation by the FBI - New Albany, the Southern Indiana Drug Task Force, Indianapolis Police Department, DEA - Louisville and Criminal Investigation Division - Indianapolis.

A total of 30 defendants were indicted in five separate, but related cases for their participation in substantial narcotics conspiracies.

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CARTER, was charged along with six other individuals, William R. Mozee, Jr., Kevin Yates, Dion Smith, Terry Mozee, Lewann Mozee, and Shaun Yates with conspiring to distribute multi-ounce quantities of crack cocaine and with a total of 36 substantive drug offenses. The investigation focused on the importation of cocaine and crack cocaine into the New Albany and Jeffersonville areas from Louisville, Kentucky and surrounding areas and elsewhere. The Southern Indiana Drug Task Force is made up of law enforcement officers from the New Albany Police Department, Floyd County Sheriff's Department, Jeffersonville Police Department, Scottsburg Police Department, Clarksville Police Department, Seymour Police Department, and the Harrison County Sheriff's Department.

The evidence brought out at the guilty plea hearings and the sentencing hearings demonstrated that beginning in or about early 1999 to approximately August 16, 2001, quantities of crack cocaine would be obtained from the Louisville, Kentucky area and transported to the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, and later be sold to individuals in the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, including, in and around public housing facilities and schools in the New Albany area. CARTER was involved in a leadership role of the drug distribution conspiracy in which he was charged along with Lewann Mozee, Terry Mozee, William Mozee, Shaun Yates, and Kevin Yates distributed more than five kilograms of crack cocaine in return for the payment of United States currency during the conspiracy to other individuals in the New Albany and Jeffersonville, Indiana areas, including,

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in and around public housing facilities and schools in the New Albany area. The evidence demonstrated that the lower level managers of this group were co-defendants Lewann Mozee and Terry Mozee.

During the charged conspiracy, the members utilized various means of communications to facilitate their drug trafficking enterprise, including cellular telephones, residential telephones, and digital pagers.

Once the crack cocaine was in New Albany, the organization utilized different houses in the public housing area to store, “cut” and repackage it for street level distribution. When the crack cocaine was bagged up for street level distribution, it was sold in small quantities, \$10 “rocks” or \$20 “rocks”. There was approximately one-tenth of a gram of crack cocaine in a \$10 “rock” and one-fifth of a gram of crack cocaine in a \$20 “rock”. The Government’s evidence presented during the court proceedings indicated that the organization would sell crack cocaine virtually every day during the pendency of the conspiracy. The evidence further established that the organization distributed more than five kilograms of crack cocaine over the period of the conspiracy.

Throughout the course of the investigation, law enforcement agents were able to make 35 controlled purchases of crack cocaine from various members of the organization.

The illegal activity that occurred in New Albany was conducted in an area in or near the Parkview-Broadmeade Terrace, William O. Vance, and Riverview Terrace public housing facilities, as well as within 1,000 feet of Herman Collier Park, Lillian Emery Elementary

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School, New Albany High School and Indiana University-Southeast, New Albany Campus.

The public housing facilities were neighborhoods where community residents have been faced with serious problems of illegal drug dealing and the violence it creates.

U.S. Attorney Susan W. Brooks stated, “The FBI and the Southern Indiana Drug Task Force acted proactively in this case. They identified a problem where a specific neighborhood was being victimized by illegal drug dealing and related violence,” noted Brooks, “and then developed a plan to try to stop it. They focused significant resources on the problem and worked as a coordinated team.” The investigative plan employed a variety of law enforcement techniques, including surveillance in the area, controlled purchases of narcotics, and court authorized interception of telephone communications.

“This joint effort by federal and local law enforcement agencies to identify and address the problem of drug trafficking in a particular area demonstrates the best of proactive law enforcement,” said Brooks. “This office shares with all the law enforcement agencies involved in this investigation a dedication to the proposition that the law-abiding citizens in our neighborhoods should not have to tolerate criminal activity which threatens their safety and the peace of their communities.”

She noted that similar efforts will be undertaken in the future when facts are developed to warrant a focus of resources and personnel. “It’s simple. For every choice, there are consequences. For those who choose to illegally deal drugs and victimize people with violence, this is the consequence.”

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Approximately 29 other individuals were charged in Clark County and Floyd County, Indiana, with various drug related offenses which occurred during the course of the investigation. Brooks commended the cooperative efforts of Clark County Prosecutor Steven Stewart, and Floyd County Prosecutor, Keith Henderson.

According to Assistant United States Attorney John E. Dowd, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Hamilton also imposed 10 years supervised release following CARTER's release from imprisonment.

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